



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia

Judiciary Center
555 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact:

USAO Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

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OPM Investigator Sentenced For **Submitting False Background Checks**

WASHINGTON - Faye Liner, 55, of Summerville, S.C., was sentenced today to one year of home confinement and electronic monitoring as part of five years of probation for making false statements by submitting false background checks to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

The Honorable Henry H. Kennedy Jr., who sentenced Liner in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, also ordered her to pay restitution of \$68,461.20.

When she pleaded guilty, Liner, who is a former Special Agent of OPM's Federal Investigative Services (OPM-FIS), admitted that she falsified work on background investigations of federal employees. Between February 2005 and May 2008, in more than a dozen Reports of Investigations ("ROIs") on background investigations, Liner represented that she had interviewed a source or reviewed a record regarding the subject of the background investigation when, in truth and in fact, she had not conducted the interview or obtained the record.

All of these reports were utilized and relied upon by the agencies requesting the background investigations to determine whether the subjects of the investigations were suitable for positions having access to classified information, for positions impacting national security, or for receiving or retaining security clearances.

"This case is important because of the implications for our national security," stated U.S. Attorney Machen. "False statements such as Ms. Liner's jeopardize the integrity of the background investigation process. This is one of several such cases we have prosecuted recently, and we are dedicated to investigating and prosecuting such cases in the future."

The issuance of a security clearance or a job offer to someone whose background has not been properly investigated can pose a serious risk to national security and to the effectiveness of the federal civilian workforce. As Kathy L. Dillaman, Associate Director of OPM-FIS, explained, "agencies rely on the integrity and completeness of OPM's background investigation

when making their adjudicative decisions. The integrity of an OPM background investigation is paramount to protecting national security and promoting the efficiency of the Federal service.”

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Special Agents Derek M. Holt, OPM, Office of the Inspector General, and Philip Kroop, Chief, Integrity Assurance Group, OPM-FIS. He also acknowledged the efforts of Paralegal Specialist Sarah Reis, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ellen Chubin Epstein and Thomas E. Zeno, who investigated and prosecuted this matter.

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